

Virginia Water Resources Workshop



What Does The New Water Supply Planning Regulation Require Of You And What Are The Elements Of A Good Water Supply Plan?

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BIG PICTURE

- Localities Have Planned and Built Water Facilities That Have Been Adequate for the Past 100 Years
- Progress has Slowed on Permitting and Constructing New Facilities for the Past 30 years
- Recent Drought Conditions have Heightened Awareness of the Need to Revisit Planning/Permitting
- Central Issues Addressed in this Process
 - Water Supply Should Remain Local Issue
 - Need for Streamlined Permit Process at State/Federal Level
 - State Advocacy for Projects Meeting State Requirements
- A Good Planning Process should Lead to a Solution – Not Just Another Study on the Shelf



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NOT YOUR TYPICAL WATER PLAN

- It is mandatory
- Water resource plan versus water supply plan
 - must account for all areas of locality
 - not just service areas
 - agricultural
 - industrial
 - conservation
 - recreation/instream beneficial uses
 - groundwater
- Localities responsible for the plan instead of water providers
 - very important to work with the providers
- Public participation is now mandatory
 - the plan is not being created in a vacuum and doing it right should facilitate project approval



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BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Local governments required to submit plans within 3 to 5 years
- Schedule staggered based upon population
 - > 35,000 people – 3 years
 - 15,000-35,000 – 4 years
 - < 15,000 – 5 years
- Regional groups have up to 6 years to submit a plan but must notify DEQ of intention within 3 years
- Nothing prevents early submittal of plans
 - if you know you need water then you should not wait



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BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Required Plan Elements

- Description of existing water sources, water resources and water use
- Assessment of projected water demand/statement of need
- Description of water management actions taken by locality
- Alternatives analysis that identify potential means of meeting projected water deficits

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Major Elements of a Good Water Supply Planning Process





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Major Elements of a Good Water Supply Planning Process

- Reflect Local Values and Community Goals
- Build on Existing Information
- Looks at Regional Issues
- Considers Conservation
- Plans for Drought
- Involves Public and State Agencies
- Accurately Reflects Future Needs and Identifies Alternatives
- Deals with Potential Conflict
- Facilitates Permitting of New Sources

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What Should a Good Planning Process Do?

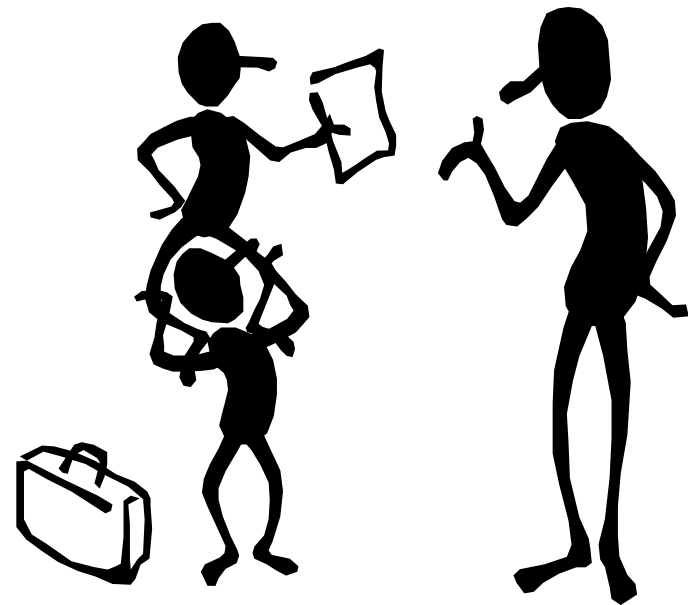
- Reflects Local Values and Community Goals
- Starts with Comprehensive Plan
- Has Least Impact on Region's Water Resources
- Evaluates Everyone's Needs
- Is Cost Effective to Public
- Provides Road Map for Future Needs



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How Do I Get Started?

- Update Comprehensive Plan
- Build on Previous Studies
- Partner with Your Local Water Providers
- Look for Regional Partners with Similar Interests





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Is a Regional Approach Right For You?

- Regulation Provides More Time for Comprehensive Look
- Reduces Conflict with People Looking at Same Sources (i.e., groundwater, streams, impoundments)
- Usually, Most Cost Effective Use of Capacity
- May Reduce “Cumulative Impact” if Looking for New Source
- Increases Opportunity for Permitting New Source
- May Increase Reliability
- Can You Overcome Control Issues



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Should I Factor in Conservation?

- Reduces Demand Projections and Preserves Natural Resources
- Regulation Requires It – “Statement of Need”
- Distinguish Between Conservation and Drought Management
- Reduce “Water Losses”
- Look at Innovative Ways to Provide Incentives
- Drought Management Plan Required
- Determine Impact on Revenue



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Do I Need a Drought Management Plan?

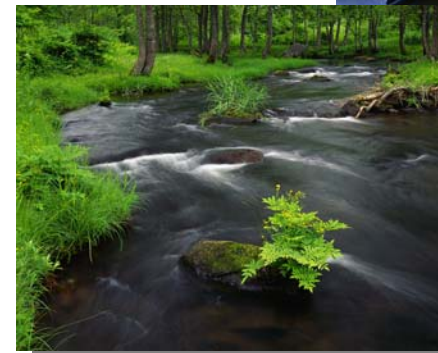
- Regulation Requires One Keyed to State Designation for Stages of Drought
- Three Tiers
 - Drought Watch:
Educate Public on Need to Conserve
 - Drought Warning:
Voluntary Conservation (5 to 10% Goal)
 - Drought Emergency:
Mandatory Conservation (10 to 15% Goal)
- Contingency Plan for Alternative Sources
- Reduces Impact on Other Beneficial Uses
- Keep Current



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When Do I Involve the Public and State Agencies?

- Determine Impact of Your Potential Project on Other Beneficial Uses
 - Living Resources
 - Historic
 - Recreation
 - Scenic or Special Use Designations
- Are Your Alternatives Reasonable?
- Consider Public Forum to I.D. Potential Concerns?
- Ask State to Convene “Technical Evaluation Committee”
- Identify and Resolve Potential Conflicts Early





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What is a “Statement of Need?”

- Looks at Current and Future Demands for 30 Years to 50 Years
- Determine “Safe Yield” of Existing and Identified Alternatives Considering Other Beneficial Uses
- Look at Impact of Providing Water for Other Jurisdictions
- Consider All Alternatives Including Purchasing from Existing Sources
- Selected Alternatives Should
 - Have Least Environmental Impact
 - Be Most Practicable
- Determines Need for Additional Water for Future



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What Happens to Plan?

- State Evaluates Compliance with Regulations
- State Determines Cumulative Impact
- State Incorporates into “State Plan”
- Identifies Conflicts on Use of State Resources
- Public Hearings Required
- Provides Basis for Permitting New Sources



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Helpful Hints

- Start Early
- Involve All Logical Stakeholders
- Consider Advantages of Regional Plan
- Involve the Public and State Agencies
- Be Realistic When Considering Alternatives
- Keep Your Eye on the “Target”

